

which would otherwise have been inaccessible; John Phillipps for finding and donating the second known Borneo specimen of *Macroglossum faro*: Dr Charles Leh, Curator of Zoology at the Sarawak Museum, Kuching for access to the Sarawak Museum collection and Haji Mohd. Jaya bin Hj. Sayat, Curator of Natural History at the Brunei Museum, Kota Batu, Bandar Seri Begawan for access to the Brunei Museum collection. Particular thanks to Dr Ian Kitching of the BM (NH), London for giving so much of his time in carrying out the genitalia examinations and giving taxonomic advice.

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#### A remarkable assemblage of beetles under one stone

Stone-turning is usually among the first collecting methods to be practised by the young beetle-hunter, calling as it does for no special knowledge or apparatus. So at least it was in my own case, when I pursued it to good effect in the gardens both of my parents and (for one season) of my prep-school in Blackheath from the late 1920s. Seldom, however, I venture to think, can such a rich haul of beetles have been obtained from under a single stone of modest size, as on the occasion related here: well over fifty specimens comprising at least sixteen species.

The site was a more or less sterile sand and gravel pit at Plumstead in the S.E. London suburbs, where I had previously found nothing of note. On the occasion in question (11.vii.1958), the pit was particularly dry and barren; two or three slightly damp patches remained on its floor but even they were devoid of beetles. As a last resort, and expecting to draw a blank, I rather casually turned over a solitary stone — the only one there. To my utmost astonishment, small beetles were scattering from under it in all directions, making it no easy matter to collect them or what I hoped was the majority of them. (The assemblage, whatever its composition, was obviously of considerable interest in itself.) Some individuals must have made good their escape but I am inclined to think few or no species were

missed. What brought together such a multitude was, clearly, a combination of two factors — residual moisture and shelter.

The following were found to have been taken. CARABIDAE: *Bembidion genei* Küst., 2; *B. femoratum* Stm., several. STAPHYLINIDAE: *Carpelimus bilineatus* Steph., 1; *C. gracilis* Mann., 10; *C. pusillus* (Grav.), 1; *Platystethus nitens* (Sahlb.), 3; *Hypomedon obscurellus* (Er.), 8; *Leptacinus batychrus* (Gyll.), 9; *Neobisnius lathrobioides* (Baudi), 5; *Philonthus quisquiliarius* (Gyll.), 1; *Gabrius nigrutilus* (Grav.), 1 male; *Thecturota* (= *Pragensiella*) *marchii* (Dod.), 2; *Falagria caesa* Er. (= *sulcata* auct.), many; *Amischa decipiens* (Sharp), 1; *Atheta* (*Philhygra*) *luridipennis* (Mann.), 1; *A. (P.) palustris* (Kies.), 1.

The heavy preponderance of Staphylinidae will be noted, as also the absence among these of any species over about 4mm in length other than the *Philonthus*. Of those present, several are uncommon in this district or indeed not otherwise found there, notably (in the latter category) *T. marchii*, *H. obscurella* and *A. palustris*. *C. gracilis* though general is quite scarce whilst *F. caesa* (present in numbers) has otherwise occurred to me only singly, even though on numerous occasions. *N. lathrobioides*, like all its genus, is far from common.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

#### **A further record of *Pelosia muscerda* Hufn., the Dotted Footman (Lep.: Arctiidae) in Kent.**

A single male of *P. muscerda* was caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at Hamstreet, Kent (Site No. 472, OS grid ref. TR 004 334) on 27.vii.1990. No known migrant species were caught on this night. J. Clarke (*Ent. Rec.* 102: 302) records two specimens at Folkestone Warren on 1/2.viii.1990 and reviews the history of this species in Kent.

Although this species was once at Ham Fen, some 75km away from the R.I.S. trap at Hamstreet, it is no longer believed to occur there. It seems likely that the present record, and those of Dr Clarke, represent a migration of *P. muscerda* from a more distant source.

Thanks are extended to Mr M. Tickner for operating the trap at Hamstreet.—ADRIAN M. RILEY, AFRC-Farmland Ecology Group, Dept. Entomology & Nematology, Rothamsted Exp. Stn., Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

#### **A melanic form of *Carabus arvensis* Herbst. (Col.: Carabidae)**

Following the account by Mr A.A. Allen (*Ent. Rec.* 102: 214) on melanism in *Carabus clatratus* L., I can report a few melanic specimens of *Carabus arvensis* by acid flushes on Cadair Idris, Merionethshire (SH71), 27.v.1990.— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3EP.